

**JOHNSON BROTHERS FOREST RESOURCES, LLC**

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January 10, 2011

Christine Tutty Johnson, Business Development Director for Johnson Brothers Companies, based in Missoula, Montana, would like to encourage the support of Senate Bill 47, a bill clarifying the powers of Board of Environmental Review on air quality regulations for forest equipment.

Currently, wood chippers and grinders are classified, for air quality purposes, under concrete and gravel crushers. Timber products is an important part of the Western Montana economy, and if wood chippers and grinders were to follow the air quality regulations as it stands now, the chipping and grinding part of the timber industry, and the wood products industry as a whole would come to a standstill.

Companies that own and operate chippers and grinders move their equipment as often as 2-3 times a day, and they may not know where the chippers will be moving until 1-2 days before it moves. Most chipping and grinding jobs depend on weather, availability of material (i.e. slash piles, log decks, etc.), and availability of trucks to transport the chipped or ground material. The current regulations require a 30-45 day waiting period to move equipment.

Johnson Brothers Companies currently hold three permits for chippers through its Glacier Gold company, the majority of permitted chippers in the state. Johnson Brothers Companies, along with other timber industry companies, have been working with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality for the past year on this legislation, and we strongly encourage the support of this bill.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time,

Christine Tutty Johnson
Business Development Director
Johnson Brothers Companies